

Message Text

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43

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY KABUL

UNCLAS STATE 227696

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, US, PK

SUBJECT: REVISED PRESS GUIDANCE

REF: A) STATE 227357; B) ISLAMABAD 8851

FOLLOWING REVISED PRESS GUIDANCE PROVIDED DEPARTMENT SPOKES-
MAN SUBSEQUENT TO REFTEL FOR USE AT SEPTEMBER 24 NOON
BRIEFING SHOULD QUESTION ARISE:

Q. WHAT ABOUT INDIAN AND PAKISTAN PRESS REPORTS THAT THE
PAKISTANIS HAVE PRESENTED A LIST OF ARMS REQUESTS TO US?
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A. WE HAVE SEEN THE SEPTEMBER 23 ARTICLE IN THE PAKISTAN
TIMES. THIS ARTICLE IS ESSENTIALLY CORRECT, BUT THE
INDIAN WIRE SERVICE VERSION IS SOMEWHAT MISLEADING. THE
SITUATION IS: WE LIFTED OUR TEN YEAR EMBARGO ON EXPORTS

OF LETHAL EQUIPMENT TO INDIA AND PAKISTAN LAST FEBRUARY 24 AND ADOPTED A POLICY OF PERMITTING CASH SALES ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS. UNDER THE NEW POLICY, WE HAVE FOR SOME TIME BEEN HAVING TECHNICAL-LEVEL DISCUSSIONS ABOUT POSSIBLE SALES. THESE DISCUSSIONS ARE CONTINUING AND NO SALES HAVE YET BEEN MADE OR DECISIONS REACHED ON ANY SALES UNDER THIS NEW POLICY. ALL SALES WILL STRICTLY ADHERE TO THE GUIDELINES ANNOUNCED FEBRUARY 24.

Q. CAN YOU TELL US WHAT ARMS WE ARE GOING TO SELL?

A. I DON'T WANT TO GET INTO DETAIL. HOWEVER, AS I SAID, THE PAKISTAN TIMES ARTICLE STRIKES US AS BASICALLY ACCURATE.

ROBINSON

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CALCUTTA
MADRAS
BOMBAY
DACCA

KATHMANDU
COLOMBO
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